

# Spectrum

Latest staff news and events

February 2004

## Year in Industry - "Good in every possible way"

*The CCLRC has worked with the Royal Academy of Engineering to offer Year in Industry placements for more than 10 years. The scheme provides first-class work placements for high flying students ahead of their university courses.*

The placements leave the students with a positive and lasting impression of the CCLRC and some return after university. The organisation benefits from an extra pair of talented hands, well able to tackle short or longer term projects with fresh ideas, initiative and a new perspective.

All the CCLRC has to do is to provide a department, a project, a manager and a salary between £8k and £12k.

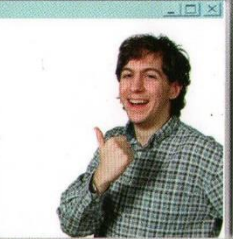
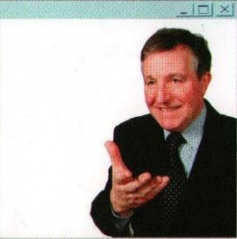
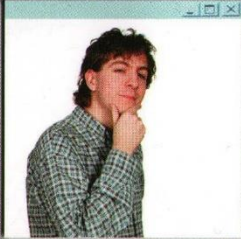
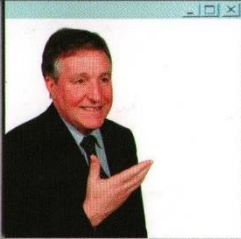
Alistair Mills of the e-Science team at RAL needed someone to help operate Access Grid, the next generation of video conferencing, which takes place over the internet. He is supervising Alex Baker who joined RAL in September. "Having a Year in Industry student has freed up more experienced staff for

other jobs", Alistair explained. "Alex has fitted in well to the team and it's hard to believe that he hasn't been to university. He has made the Access Grid system reliable and contributed to other projects within the team. I consider the scheme money well-spent. If there is a downside, it's that Alex will have to go to university in September!"

Alex is clearly enjoying his time at RAL. The highlight so far has been providing technical help for a presentation via Access Grid to the Supercomputing 2003 conference. Delegates were located around the world and Alex was responsible for ensuring that the video links from

RAL ran smoothly. "Year in Industry lets you know what to expect from a job. I've built up my skills and even better, I've been able to save some money for university. Year in Industry is good in every possible way!"

**Year in Industry has clearly been a positive experience for Alistair and Alex. If you think you could offer a placement, contact Jenny King on ext. 5001 for more information.**



## Inside

### 2 Management matters

There's more to Mars Express...

Who's who in Occupational Health

### 3 New Year Honours

Christmas cross-country fun run

Champions cue up

### 4 Management success

Say hello to...

Because you're worth it...

Any Questions?

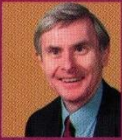
Retirement round-up

Einstein Year

Christmas prize crossword winners

## Team work triumphs

A deluge of snow cut RAL off from the outside world on 28 January. Staff who were trapped on site made their way to the restaurant in the hope of an evening meal. The normal evening service provides around 40 meals, served by a chef and catering assistant. As the queues lengthened, Martin the Chef frantically cooked more food, helped by Dotty the Catering Assistant. Volunteers helped by clearing plates, washing up, restocking shelves and manning the till. By the end of the evening, an astonishing 451 meals had been served to appreciative staff. Joe Hoskins, Chairman of the Trade Union Side at RAL expressed his thanks, "They deserve recognition for the first class service provided at such short notice." Well done everyone - you know who you are!



## Management matters

Many staff may be aware that the CCLRC is due to appear before the House of Commons Select Committee for Science and Technology on 29 March 2004. This forms part of a rolling programme of scrutiny of all the research councils, the majority of which have already been through the process and in no way implies that the CCLRC has been singled out from the rest.

The team that will give evidence will be headed by me and will include other key Directors from within the organisation. I understand that the Select Committee is particularly interested in reviewing the CCLRC's performance following the recent Quinquennial Review. Areas which the Committee have indicated are of specific interest include, access to the CCLRC facilities for HEI researchers and industry, progress on the Diamond project, facilities for researchers in the future and the CCLRC's training and commercialisation functions.

I have asked Departmental Directors to assist in the preparation for the hearing and I have asked that they collect supporting evidence and data in preparation for the scrutiny session itself. We are required to submit written evidence to the Committee in early March and I will ensure that all members of staff have the opportunity to see this before our appearance. I would welcome your views on this evidence which will help brief the team in preparation for some of the questions they may face. This will be an excellent opportunity for the CCLRC to outline the long term vision for the organisation and to demonstrate the processes which we have set in place in order to achieve this.

John Wood  
Chief Executive

# There's more to Mars Express...

**Staff in Space Science and Technology Department (SSTD) have been looking forward to the arrival of Mars Express (MEX) at the red planet. As well as Beagle-2, SSTD has made two important contributions to the orbiting spacecraft (which is working well).**

SSTD is a partner in the ASPERA instrument which will study the loss of Mars' atmosphere into the solar wind. First results from this are expected shortly.

The largest MEX activity is the Payload Operations Service (POS), which will coordinate the

planning and commanding of instruments on the orbiter. Part of this is MIRA (MEX Instrument Resource Analyser), which is the key software for planning scientific observations. This tool analyses scientists' proposals against the finite ability of the spacecraft to deliver power, collect data and point at targets of interest. MIRA enables MEX scientists to prepare a viable plan of observations. It is already being used to plan early observations while ESA manoeuvres MEX into its operational orbit and prepares the spacecraft for routine operations which are due to

begin in May 2004 (after deployment of MEX's ground-penetrating radar).

POS will then take responsibility for commanding the instruments, re-using the innovative and successful concept developed for ESA's Cluster mission. This concept uses the planning process to generate commands which are then reviewed by instrument scientists and revised as needed. Of course, turning this simple model into a robust reality has taken a lot of hard work by the POS team but they are now ready to provide a service that gives scientists great flexibility in commanding their instruments, leaving routine, repetitive work to POS software. The SSTD team will take over control of all Mars Express science operations at the beginning of May.

## Who's who in Occupational Health?

**Two new suppliers have been providing occupational health services to the CCLRC from August 2003 following a competitive tender exercise. Here's your chance to meet the teams!**

### RAL

IMASS is an established, well-respected and innovative provider of occupational health and health and safety solutions to a wide range of sectors throughout the UK. IMASS is delighted to be working with the CCLRC, delivering a comprehensive, highly qualified and best practice service. Look out for a forthcoming leaflet on the Occupational Health Service at RAL, which will be delivered to all staff in the near future. See [www.imassgroup.com](http://www.imassgroup.com) for more information.

*The RAL Occupational Health team are:*

- 1 Dr Mark Critchley, Occupational Health Physician
- 2 Jan Williams, Senior Occupational Health Nurse
- 3 Diana Woodhouse, Occupational Health Nurse (part-time)
- 4 Jane Scully, Administrator (part-time)

**RAL - ext. 2222 (emergencies only) or ext. 6666 for non-emergencies**

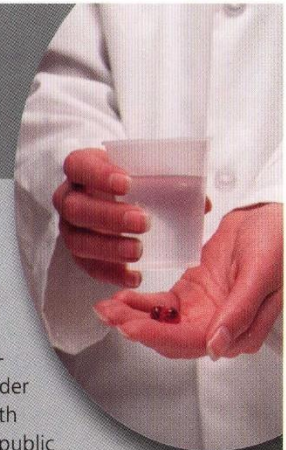
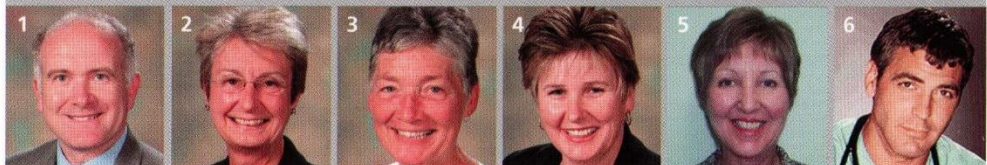
### DL

The 5 Boroughs NHS Trust is based at Hollins Park, Winwick and is an established and well-respected local provider of occupational health services to both the public and private sectors with a customer base of over 32,000 employees across a range of organisations. 5 Boroughs have direct access to NHS facilities and as a result they are able to provide a comprehensive service backed up by the NHS. See [www.warrington-health.co.uk](http://www.warrington-health.co.uk) for more information.

*The DL Occupational Health team are:*

- 5 Kathy White, Occupational Health Nurse Adviser (part-time)
- 6 Dr Peter Zacharias, Consultant Occupational Physician (*genuine photo not available!*)

**DL - ext. 3333 (emergencies only) or ext. 3234 for non-emergencies**





**A**re you finding the corporate style guidelines easy to use? Have you checked that all your presentations feature the new logo? Does your email signature refer to CCLRC? Are you responsible for any departmental web pages which still have the old logo?

It's nearly a year since we introduced the new corporate logo and guidelines for its use. If you have any comments on the guidelines, positive or negative, please contact Tracey Potts on ext. 5777 or by e-mail to [t.c.potts@clrc.ac.uk](mailto:t.c.potts@clrc.ac.uk).

And if you need to refresh your memory about the guidelines, follow the links from Staff Central to the Communications intranet page.

## Any Questions?

**BC Radio 4's Any Questions? Will be coming live from Culham Science Centre, Abingdon on Friday 5 March.**

On the panel will be Robin Cook MP, Kenneth Clarke MP, Julia Hartley-Brewer, Political Editor of the Sunday Express and Professor Kathy Sykes from the University of Bristol.

Doors open from 6.45pm to 7.15pm. For your free ticket contact Heather Clark on 01235 466363.

## Thanks!

The RAL Christmas carol service collection for Spurgeon's Child Care came to £74.45. Many thanks to all who gave. Details of future events run by the RAL Christian Fellowship can be found at [www.geocities.com/ralfcf](http://www.geocities.com/ralfcf).

## Christmas cross-country fun run

**T**welve hardy runners slipped and slithered their way round the course in the pre-Christmas fun run at Daresbury.

The complex handicap system ensured that the first runner home was not the overall winner. Tracey Pickthorne was the first lady home, overtaken by Alastair Lennie in the final few yards.

Tracey was very enthusiastic, "I found the run very



exhilarating - up and down, slippery and slidy and tough, but well worth it when I crossed the finishing line!

The race finished with a presentation in the Amenity Area. Each participant contributed a small gift so everyone went home with a prize.

## Champions cue up Pool at Daresbury



**22 December saw the grand final of the Daresbury Pool Tournament between Jamie Markey and Alan Austin.**

The final was the best of 3 games. Alan won the first game, Jamie the second and

the last game was a nail-biter, when Jamie missed a shot and left Alan to clear up the black.

Both players took away medals and T-shirts provided by Leisure Link. Alan also has his name on the annual Daresbury Pool Tournament Champion Cup, alongside Alex Galloway who won last year. The Cup will be displayed in the Amenity Area. Alan was also presented with a signed Jimmy White pool cue with leather case.

## Snooker at RAL

**R**AL recently held its **R**annual Snooker Singles competition for the Paul Williams Tankard. After some keenly fought matches in the early stages, with previous winners being eliminated, there were two new finalists; **John Skrzyniarz of the Building Projects Group and Tom Rutherford of ISIS.**

After some cautious play from both, John cleared the last few colours to win the first frame by 30:53 points.

The second frame was much closer and Tom looked to have it all under control to take it to a deciding frame. But John took advantage of a slip-up in



a safety shot and took the lead, before leaving Tom a chance to snatch the frame. Two good shots on blue and pink made it a black ball game which Tom narrowly missed and John made no mistake in taking the next opportunity, the game (40:44) and the match.

Congratulations to both players for making it an entertaining final - and we have a well deserved new name on the Trophy.

## Dates for your diary

20 February (DL) 7pm - public lecture\* **'Juggling - theory and practice'** by Dr Colin Wright

Colin demonstrates the patterns and skills of juggling and at the same time develops a simple method of describing and annotating a class of juggling patterns. Using elementary maths, these patterns can be classified, leading to a simple way to describe those patterns that are already known and a technique for discovering new ones. (age 8+)

Contact June Prince on ext. 3488 for more information.

26th February (RAL) 12.30pm - RAL Christian Fellowship

**'Working out your faith in the workplace'**

A visit from the national director of Christians at Work. All welcome.

Contact John Lipp on ext. 5316 for more information.

12 March (RAL) 10.30am and 1.30pm - public lecture\*

**'Creating faces'** with Dr Caroline Wilkinson

The process of facial reconstruction allows us to imagine the appearance of an individual from skeletal remains. This lecture will explain the technique of facial reconstruction and highlight the importance of it in forensic and archaeological investigations. (age 9+)

Contact Lisa Faircloth on ext. 5789 for more information.

19 March (DL) 7pm - public lecture\*

**'Using the Synchrotron to design new drugs'** by Dr Chris Pickles

How do you design a new drug from scratch? How do you control the release of the drug into the body and protect the research investment? (age 16+)

Contact June Prince on ext. 3488 for more information

24 March (RAL) - Open Afternoon **Space Science and Technology Department**

Learn more about the many missions in which the department has played a key role.

Contact Emma Gilgunn-Jones on ext. 5553 for more information

\*Please note:

- The public lectures at DL and RAL are oversubscribed. If you book a place and are then unable to attend, please contact the organiser so that your place can be offered to someone on the waiting list.
- The minimum age for each event ensures that every member of the audience will understand and enjoy the lecture. Younger children are likely to find the content of the lecture too complex.

**Have you got an event that you would like included in 'Dates for your Diary'?**

Contact the editor with the details.

## Say Hello to...

**Anthony Crampton** (RAL)  
Head of Marketing and Communications

**Christine Kitchen** (DL)  
Distributed Computing (DisCo) Scientist, CSE

**Sue Lewis** (RAL)  
Transport Operations Administrator, SSTD

**Ian Mitchell** (RAL)  
Planning Engineer, Isis

**Quintino Mutamba** (RAL)  
Applied Physicist, Isis

**George Prassas** (RAL)  
Linux Systems Administrator (Hardware), e-Science Centre

**David Pyke** (RAL)  
Clerk of Works

**Jane Rickard** (RAL)  
Learning and Development Adviser

**Robbie Scott** (RAL)  
Mechanical Design/Project Engineer, Isis

**Marc Simon** (RAL)  
Cryogenic Engineer, Isis

**Matt Viljoen** (RAL)  
Grid Support Officer, e-Science Centre

## Christmas prize crossword winners

Congratulations to Nigel Simpson (Isis) and Nick Johns (SRS) whose winning entries were randomly drawn out from the many correct entries. Thank you to everyone who took part - if you were unlucky this time, better luck next time!



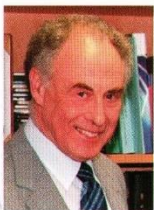
*Nigel Simpson receives his prize from Spectrum Editor, Steph Presland*

## New Year Honours

**Chris Damerell** has been awarded an OBE for 'services to particle physics research'. Chris's group has spent the past 25 years developing a bridge between particle physics and technology (silicon devices). The group has developed new technology to track quarks - some of the smallest components of matter - in some of the largest scientific research projects in the world.



Chris was delighted with the award. "This recognizes the work of the talented team of physicists and engineers from the laboratory, as well as our first-class university collaborators, that I have been privileged to lead", he said.



**Trevor Woodger** has been awarded an MBE for 'services to engineering education'. Trevor has been working with the CCLRC for almost 10 years on the Young Apprentice scheme, coming to RAL every 6 weeks to work with our apprentices and assist them with their NVQ 3 work.

**Congratulations to both!**

## Management success

**Congratulations to the RAL staff who recently achieved the Institute of Leadership and Management (ILM) Level 3 Certificate in First Line Management.**

The group attended 12 workshops including sessions on leadership, communication and team working. They undertook skills assessments and a work based assignment to test their knowledge in these areas.

The ILM Introductory Diploma in Management starts in April. If you would like more information about this course or any other ILM



qualifications, please contact your local Learning and Development team or see [www.i-l-m.com](http://www.i-l-m.com).

**Learning and Development course programme 2004/5 coming soon!**

For the new programme of learning lunches, courses and open learning, watch this space!

## Retirement round-up

### Clive Pritchard - Stores Manager

Clive retired in December 2003 having clocked up 24 years with CCLRC. He was well known at Daresbury and a familiar face in the Finance Department at RAL. His presence contributed greatly to the smooth operations of the Stores function during numerous reviews and changes of leadership over the years. We wish Clive a long and happy retirement with his family.

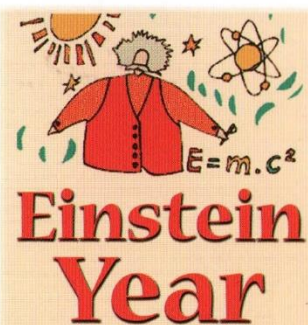
### Mick Quinn - Post Driver

Mick retired on 31 December 2003 after working for many years in RAL's Transport Operations Section. Mick joined the Lab in 1977 and spent much of his time engaged in driving duties, either moving mail between the various post rooms on the campus or providing the lunch time bus service to the local shops. We wish Mick well in his retirement.

## Because you're worth it...

Applications for the L'Oréal/Royal Institution Graduate of the Year award are open! With a £6000 prize for the winner, the award is open to students in British and Irish universities working in the life sciences, physical sciences, chemistry, plant sciences and medicine who have not yet submitted their doctoral thesis. The Award is intended to recognise high quality research of a groundbreaking nature, which shows originality and the will to innovate. For further information visit [www.rigb.org/events/awards.html](http://www.rigb.org/events/awards.html).

Applications must arrive no later than Friday 5 March 2004.



2005 is Einstein Year - the centenary of three of Einstein's greatest discoveries, and a celebration of physics around the world. As part of the celebrations, the CCLRC will be working with the Institute of Physics on a programme of exciting events to switch 11-14 year olds on to physics.

We're looking for ideas for national experiments, events and stunts that will capture the imagination of this key age group and inspire them to follow a career in physics. If you have an idea or would like to be involved, contact the Comms team on ext. 5553.

Have you got a story for Spectrum?

Contact the editor, Steph Presland on ext. 5398 or by email to [s.presland@cclrc.ac.uk](mailto:s.presland@cclrc.ac.uk)  
The deadline for the next edition is 16 February 2004.