

# Bulletin

of the Rutherford and Appleton Laboratories

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## A Flood of Farewells

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R20

Recently there has been an unusually large number of retirements from RAL. In this issue we note, with some sadness, the farewell ceremonies for Bert Brooks, Mac Snowden, Wally Griffin, Ness Wilson, Doug Howe, and Pat Kirby.

There were many other ceremonies which we were unable to attend - or did not even know about - therefore, we pass on our very best wishes to all colleagues who have recently ventured forward into retirement.

### Bert Brooks Retires

Bert Brooks, Head of Engineering and Building Works Division, retired at the end of March. A large number of friends and colleagues gathered to bid "farewell" at a ceremony in the Lecture Theatre on 25 March (- Bert's birthday!). Dr Stafford expressed his personal appreciation for the important role which Bert had played at the Laboratory.

Bert had served the Electricity Supply authority in various positions from 1937 to 1958, with a break for the war years, and joined UKAEA Harwell as a design engineer in 1958. He transferred to the Rutherford High Energy Laboratory in 1960, became Head of the Nimrod Supplies Group and made significant contributions to the success of the Nimrod programme. His influence extended to a variety of projects, including the design studies on EPIC and the High Flux Beam Reactor, and the provision of the electrical supply aspects of the 70 MeV injector for Nimrod. He has served as Chairman of the RL Safety Committee and, as Head of the Council Works Unit, has been responsible for the major building works at Chilton and other SRC establishments.

Dr Stafford presented farewell gifts of a portable television, an AA book of Country Walks and a tray incorporating photographs which surveyed Bert's various activities. Dr Stafford also presented a bouquet of flowers to Mrs Rose Brooks.

Bert expressed his thanks for the generous gifts and amusing illustrated presentation card. He said he has



Mr and Mrs Brooks with Drs Stafford and Manning after the ceremony.

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always "done his level best" and it has been a pleasure to work with colleagues who have given him so much help over the years. He now plans

to spend more time on his various interests, such as doing work for charity, travelling and improving his golf (if that's at all possible!).

### and Mac Snowden



Mr and Mrs Snowden admire their gifts with Drs Stafford and Manning.

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Report on p2.



On March 25 a group of friends bade farewell to Mac Snowden. Dr Stafford recounted how he had first met Mac on the Harwell Cyclotron in the early '50s. His wide experience and integrity have been valuable assets to the Laboratory over many years.

Mac was born in Yorkshire, educated in Sheffield, Bristol and London University. His first job was with Marconi in 1938. He spent some time in basic research at Malvern prior to joining the Cyclotron group at AERE Harwell. Mac became leader of the Valve group in 1952 and was responsible for the klystron project which developed the power source for the 50 MeV proton linear accelerator.

Mac transferred to RHEL and progressed towards higher energies as he became involved in bubble chambers and film measuring machines. He played an important role in setting up the relationship of the early University-Laboratory collaborative projects. He was Chairman of the Safety Policy Committee and recently was responsible for the technical aspects of the Rutherford-Appleton merger.

Dr Stafford presented Mac with a tape deck and a beautiful plaque in plastic depicting a bubble chamber event, and presented a bouquet of flowers to Mrs Elizabeth Snowden.

Mac replied with thanks for the delightful gifts. He has very mixed feelings about retiring - he would have more time for his hobbies (including gardening, DIY, singing in local choirs ...) and various outside interests - but he hoped to keep in touch with the physics programme at RAL. In thanking all his colleagues for their generous help over the years - he invited them to visit Elizabeth and himself at home at any time in the future.

## also Wally Griffin

It was a lovely party; ASR and friends were out in force. The occasion for the get together on 18 March, was the retirement of Wally Griffin who, as Alan Gabriel said in his farewell address "had been around more years than either of them cared to remember."

Actually, he joined AERE in 1958 to work on optical instruments for the Zeta programme, transferring to Culham around 1963 with Spectroscopy Division. (He and Alan Gabriel claim to have been first on site, climbing over rubble whilst the last bricks were put into place.) In 1968 Wally was "sucked into the Space business", working on ultraviolet spectroscopy as part of a study team which led, in time, to the International Ultraviolet Explorer. He was involved in the optical design for Eclipse 1970 and with many of the 'Skylark' rockets.

When the Millimetre Telescope project began at Culham, he was actively involved in the measuring system for testing the profile of the mirror segments.

In latter years he has been involved in the design and testing of the X-ray Polychromator (XRP) alignment system, which has proved so successful and more recently on the development of CHASE.

"But apart from the work side of things, Wally was more than someone doing a job of work. Many of us will miss being able to drop into his office to talk over problems", concluded Alan. He then presented Wally with a clock-radio, card and celebration bottle, on behalf of all the assembled company.

"Thank you everyone", Wally replied, "especially Alan for the little career review. I'm pleased to see everyone here to be able to thank them for all their support and good company. If I seek retirement it's not because I've tired of your company, but that I have more pressing matters needing attention elsewhere. I'll be seeing you!"

## Doug Howe

'Finance' lost one of its greatest assets on Friday 27 February. After 15 years helping to keep the Labs on an even keel, Doug Howe has retired.

"We are losing a man whose loyalty and integrity are unquestioned", said John Jenkins at the presentation ceremony, organised by his many friends and colleagues to mark his departure. "His value to the Group and to the Labs was well recognised. His value as a peacekeeper between the two galloping colonels (John and Jack) was gratefully understood", joked John.

On behalf of his colleagues and friends around the site, John presented Doug with a pair of field glasses (for 'bird'-watching?) and a very acceptable thirst quencher. "Many thanks from us all, and all good wishes to you and to your wife Pat, for a happy future", John concluded.

Doug thanked everyone for the gifts and their kind wishes. He had enjoyed his years at the Labs. I wish I'd a penny for every pound I've spent on RAL's behalf, he finished amongst laughter. "Thank you all and good luck".

## Ness Wilson

Also on Friday 27 March Ness Wilson and Pat Kirby left the fold.

At a joint ceremony Peter Wilde said goodbye and thank you, on behalf of all their friends and colleagues.

One of the rapidly disappearing group of people reared in the wartime signal and radar establishment who provided the foundations for AERE in the mid-forties, Ness Wilson arrived on site in 1947. The list of people with whom he worked reads like a 'Who's who' of British Science and Technology.

"Talking about those early times recently with Ness" said Peter "we remembered the giant valves developed for accelerators such as the PLA - these valves were measured by the metre. Now we talk in a blasé manner about electronic devices measured by the micrometer!"

"Ness has kept in step with these tremendous changes and stayed a master manipulator of the ever changing raw materials of his trade. The work of the Electronics Group has gained from Ness' brand of idiosyncratic rationality (if the two words can go together) which often led us to new view points. We shall miss him," he concluded.

Thanking everyone for the gifts of a Garden Spray and a digital Multimeter Ness replies that like the god Janus he looked back with affection on the past but also forward to the future. Now he had something new to do he was looking forward to a new life of service to his more unfortunate fellow man. "Thank you all good luck and goodbye".



## and Pat Kirby

This area has two basic industries - horse racing and high level science. Pat Kirby has participated in both.

From the stable and the track and after a brief spell at AERE, he joined NIRS in the Technical Records Centre. Having a hobby interest in electronics he seized the opportunity in the mid '60s to join the Electronics Manufacturing Section. This area of work was growing tremendously and relied on printed circuit supplies, - Pat became an acknowledged authority in this work. With this experience he was able to help manufacturers to produce structures of unusual size and precision for particle detectors, contributing to the high reputation the RAL now holds in HEP detector production.

He also played a significant role in the establishment of the Institute of Printed Circuit Technology, serving on many of their committees. This work he intends to continue.

"Through good and bad times I have been touched by the friendship and goodwill I have always found here", said Pat, "the past 20 years have been very enjoyable". Pat also expressed his gratitude to all friends and colleagues for their help and encouragement, for their parting gifts (an executive case and pen), and for all their good wishes.



# INTERNAL Events

## NIMROD LECTURES

R61 CONF. ROOM - 1400 hrs

- 21 Apr. Prof H Harari/Weismann  
'A Dynamical Theory for  
Rishons'
- 27 Apr. Dr A Ali/DESY  
'Implications for Dynamical  
Symmetry Breaking for  
 $e^+e^-$  annihilation'

## HEP SEMINARS

R61 CONF. ROOM - 1100 hrs

- 8 Apr. Dr S T Tsou/Math.Inst.Oxford  
'Monopoles in Weinberg-  
Salam Theory: Confined  
or Not Confined, That is  
the Question'
- 15 Apr. Dr H M Chan/RAL  
'Topology, Monopoles and  
Quarks'

## RAL NEUTRON THEORY

GROUP SEMINARS

CONF RM 5 R20 - 14.30 hrs

- 8 April Prof P Pincus/UCLA  
'Colloidal Crystals'



The next lecture will take place in the Lecture Theatre on Thursday 30 April at 3.15 p.m.

### STUDIES OF THE ANTARTIC ATMOSPHERE

by

M J Rycroft

British Antarctic Survey, Cambridge

The Atmospheric Sciences Division of B.A.S. studies the whole extent of the Antarctic atmosphere, from ground level out to the interplanetary medium. There are three main observing stations, at Grytviiken on the island of South Georgia (54°S), at Faraday on a small island to the West of the Antarctic peninsula (65°S) and at Halley on a floating ice-shelf in the Weddell Sea (76°S). Many different observational techniques are used, covering the disciplines of surface and upper-air meteorology, solar and terrestrial radiation, ozone, geomagnetism and radio wave investigations of the ionosphere and magnetosphere. Some illustrations are presented of the equipment in use and also of the results obtained. These illustrate the particular advantages to be gained by studying the physics of the atmosphere in Antarctica.

## Film Badge Notice

It is Period 4, Colour Strip BLUE. Please check that you are wearing; the correct film badge and all old ones are returned.

NEXT FILM CHANGE

Tuesday, 21 April.

## Physics Fellowships

The Faculty of Physics at the Weizman Institute is offering Postdoctoral Fellowships in various areas of research. They are mainly intended for those who have recently acquired their doctorate and provide 12 months stipend and allowances, with a possibility of renewal for a second year. For further information please contact Tom Gubbins on Ext. 266.

## Training

### INTEGRATED CIRCUIT DESIGNERS

The SRC is sponsoring MSc courses in integrated circuit design at several universities. Courses are established at Edinburgh and UMIST together with a joint course at Southampton and Brunel. A microelectronics option for the M.Eng. degree course is also to be offered at Durham. These courses will use mask making facilities at RAL and silicon fabrication facilities at Edinburgh and Southampton.

### BRAZING FOR DESIGNERS AND PRACTICAL ENGINEERS

This course will be held at the 'Metals Technology Centre' of British Non Ferrous Metals, Wantage on 6 and 7 May 1981.

For further information and enquiries on all training please contact Training Section on Ext. 266.

## Library Notice

These books are missing from the Library.

Scientific American - 'Particles and fields'

Hawking, SW - 'Large scale structure of Spacetime'

Both these books have long waiting lists. Could they be returned to the Library immediately.

### 2nd Appeal

The contents pages cards for NUCLEAR INSTRUMENTS AND METHODS has been lost. We would be grateful if those people who usually receive these pages would send a note of their name and building number to the Library R61.

If you have already responded to this appeal, thank you.



'Old Boys' of the Harwell Cyclotron, Sir John Adams, Dr T G Pickavance and Mr M Snowden re-united after Sir John had given the RAL Lecture on Thursday 19 March. Sir John has recently retired as Director-General CERN and Mac Snowden from RAL.



## La Soirée Française



Plus de soixante personnes - sorry - over sixty people were present at the annual 'soirée' organised by RAL staff attending the weekly French language classes which have been taught here by Madame Monique Ashby for the past seven years. As last year, the principal feature of the evening was a revue, consisting of sketches and musical items, arranged and performed in (almost) French by the students under Madame Ashby's energetic direction. The soiree also included a number of games (conducted in French), dancing, and a buffet of French food and wine.

In addition to providing an enjoyable evening's entertainment for students, families, and friends, this function is of considerable practical value in providing an opportunity to practise spoken French in a real situation. By rehearsing the French sketches and performing them with a live audience, confidence in speaking the language improves, while the inevitable mistakes (instantly corrected by Madame Ashby) serve to provide additional hilarity for the spectators.

Anyone with some knowledge of French can be assured of an entertaining evening on these occasions. Ne manquez pas l'événement de l'année prochaine!

## House Exchange

Would anyone wishing to exchange houses with an ILL colleague from Grenoble, during July/August please contact J B Forsyth Ext 6116.

## Radio Club

The Radio Club is holding its AGM on Tuesday 7 April at 12.45 in R58. Non-members are welcome to come along.

## Crib

The Crib Final Night was held on Friday 20 March in the Restaurant, and was a great success with 45 players competing.

The Winter League was won by the R2 Electricians, 'Bisto Kids', with J Purling (Capt), A Ferrari, J Mackerness and N D Grafton. The knock-out competition winners were the 'Misfits' from R18, J Akhurst and D V Jones captained by B Child. Mrs Watkins was the winner of the singles with W Dormer runner-up and the Doubles champions were R Pike and S Stoneham who beat J Marshall and B Wheeler. The Chairman of the Rec. Soc, E Thomas present the Trophies.

We would like to thank all who attended the occasion for making it such an enjoyable evening, and all the players wish to thank the two ladies who served behind the bar.

## Thanks

Doug Howe thanks all his friends and colleagues for the presents and good wishes he received on his retirement and says goodbye to all those he was unable to see.

Sue Underdown would like to thank all friends and colleagues for their good wishes, gifts and kind thoughts.

## Sales to Employees

Sales of scrap metal/plastics as set out in RLN 12/73 will be made on 3 and 24 April at the Scrap Compound, rear of R40 from 1200 - 1230 hrs.

## Undelivered Mail

'A number of Mullard Technical Notes on switched mode power supplies have been received, with no recipients name. If anyone asked Mullard for these, please contact Derek Jones R63 Ext 466/6185.

## Will you Walk?

By kind permission of His Grace the Duke of Marlborough, the Save the Children Fund is organising a sponsored walk in the grounds of Blenheim Palace for Sunday, 31st May, 1981, from 10 am. - 4pm.

1981 has been designated the International Year for Disabled Persons, and in this special year Save the Children will be endeavouring to make its STOP Polio Campaign, a number one priority.

If you would like to support this major event, ring Peter Hey, Extension 432.

## Obituaries

We are sorry to announce the death on Monday 19 February at Didcot Hospital of Mrs Irene Darrington, aged 57. Irene had worked since 1966 as a Scanner with the Bubble Chamber Group and was appreciated as much for her friendly personality as for her accurate work. An excellent cook and gardener, she will be much missed by her friends and colleagues.

Our sympathies go to her husband, son and daughter.

*(This appreciation should have appeared in last months' edition but was, regrettably, mislaid.)*

It is with regret that we record the death of Ron Etherington on Saturday 14 March.

Ron, who had been with us for just over a year and worked in the Assets & Inventories Section, was very well liked by those who came in contact with him and his passing will be much regretted. After his war service as a pilot with the Royal Air Force he spent many years in Africa where he was Chief Pilot to the Tanganyikan Government for a spell following which he moved to Kenya and had various posts there. He latterly suffered considerably from ill health but this did not affect his cheerful attitude of life and problems in general.

He leaves a widow and daughter to whom we extend our sympathies.

# Bulletin

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